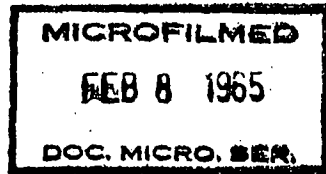


AIR



OBBA 724

Chief of Base, Munich

28 August 1953

Chief of Mission, Brussels

INFO: COM, Frankfurt

Operational/CART/CASTONE
Otto HANTEL

Reference: EGMA 5710

Source: []

1. According to the Luxemburg authorities HANTEL was the subject of a preliminary investigation as a war criminal. He was arrested in Ludwigsburg on 24 September 1946 and placed in the custody of a Luxemburg military mission. HANTEL was freed after the initial hearing but was instructed to appear later (Source was unable to determine the date) before a special war crimes court. Although HANTEL did not appear before this court, he was nonetheless acquitted.
2. The charge against HANTEL was based on the statements of Leo PUNDEL, a Luxemburg national. PUNDEL said that on 5 September 1944 in the Lipperscheiderdekt area he and two companions, Jean FLOENER and Pierre NOEL, were challenged by a German police patrol in uniform who took them for deserters. After a brief roadside questioning, PUNDEL and his friends were told to march forward whereupon they were shot. Only PUNDEL managed to escape death, and to get away. (The bodies of FLOENER and NOEL were exhumed after the liberation)
3. HANTEL said, during his interrogation, that at that time an order had been issued to round up Luxemburg deserters in Lipperscheiderdekt, but that he had not been part of the patrol mentioned by PUNDEL and had never worn a uniform. HANTEL did remember, however, that a subordinate, one HOHMAN, had told him that the patrol had hailed a group of civilians as they came out on to the road from a nearby wood. The civilians, according to HOHMAN, had fled and had then been fired on but not hit. HANTEL claimed that he ordered HOHMAN to write up a report on the incident.
4. From February to September 1944 HANTEL was the head of the Gestapo in Diekirch; he later held the same position for ten days during the Von Runstedt offensive. He was also Kriminalobersekretar in Luxemburg City.
5. HANTEL said that he was the son of a forester and had nine brothers and sisters. He said that he went to the Volksschule and was then put to work. In May 1917 he fought on the Western front. In November 1918 he was taken prisoner by the Americans and liberated in December 1919. On 1 October 1920 he entered the

1 att H/w
INDEX

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SECRET

OBBA 724

28 August 1953

page 2

Schutzpolizei in Berlin and after 9 months training went on to the Kriminalpolizei in Berlin. In March 1935 HANTEL went into the Geheime Staatspolizei. In May 1938 he worked with the Staatspolizeistelle in Innsbruck. He remained there until the end of 1942 when he joined the Reichssicherheitshauptamt in Berlin. At the end of 1944 he was moved to the Staatspolizeistelle in Koblenz and at the end of February 1944 he went to the Kommissariat in Luxemburg. On 6 April 1944 he was moved to Diekirch. From 1942 on HANTEL belonged to the NSDAP, a prerequisite for obtaining the rank of Kriminalobersekretar.

6. Source states that it was not possible to determine the present whereabouts of HANTEL.

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Attachment: 1

X 7115, 5 August 1953

Distribution:

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